

Special Education High Cost Web-Based Claim System OPEN

The Special Education High Cost Aid program is intended to assist eligible applicants with meeting the high costs of educating students with disabilities. The aid is based on the prior year's expenses and is funded with a combination of state categorical aid and funds awarded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Expenses are calculated on a per student basis and include costs directly related to the education of a student with high cost special education needs. Claims for expenses incurred during 2011-2012 are due January 30, 2013. The funds are paid to eligible recipients in June 2013 for 2011-2012 costs. For additional information on the High Cost Aid program, including eligible costs, visit http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_highcost

A student meets the definition of high cost if it is determined that the amount of direct special education service costs generated by the student is more than \$30,000 after special education categorical aid amounts are deducted. Only costs associated with direct educational services provided to the student qualify for aid. Costs associated with administration or overhead are not eligible for reimbursement.

New for fiscal year 2012, a \$10,000 line item will be added to each student's claim eligible to receive high cost aid to reflect the average special education cost of services provided to most students with disabilities. This \$10,000 base cost will cover pro-rated costs such as teachers, supplies, and therapists. The LEAs will select items not covered by the \$10,000 cost, such as one-one-one aides and educational interpreters, from a drop down menu in the high cost software. The additional items selected by the LEA will represent costs that are unique to those individual students with disabilities that incur considerable special education and related service costs to the LEA. This change was implemented to ease the reporting burden LEAs have expressed in the past regarding the high cost claiming process.

The High Cost Special Education Aid program's claim process is accessed through the Special Education web portal. Instructions for completing the web-based claim forms can be viewed at <http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/pdf/highcost-instructions.pdf>.

Annually, approximately \$3.5 million is appropriated by the Wisconsin legislature as state categorical aid and \$2 million is set aside from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) discretionary allocation to fund the High Cost Special Education Aid program.

A high cost claim webinar tutorial session has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2013. The webinar will demonstrate the software and review reimbursable costs, as well as go into great explanation regarding the \$10,000 base adjustment. To register, please visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/749931378>